Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01826 290746Z ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5978

CONFIDENTIAL LUSAKA 1826

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT ZA

SUBJ: KAUNDA'S ADDRESS FAILS TO INSPIRE

REF: LUSAKA 1816

- 1. IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE 10TH UNIP NATIONAL COUNCIL IN LUSAKA, PRESIDENT KAUNDA, IN ADDITION TO LASHING OUT AT THE ECONOMIC ILLS WHICH PLAGUE ZAMBIA (REFTEL), ISSUED A WARNING THAT THOSE WHO DON'T GET BEHIND THE PARTY AND ITS SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROGRAMS SHOULD "GET OUT". LEADERS OF THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS WERE FAULTED FOR NOT HAVING MOBILIZED THE MASSES TO IMPLEMENT NATIONAL COUNCIL PROGRAMS ADOPTED AS EARLY AS 1971. KAUNDA'S PIQUE AND FRUSTRATION OVER ZAMBIA'S PRESENT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONDITION REVERBERATED THROUGHOUT HIS REMARKS.
- 2. NO ONE SEEMED TO ESCAPE THE PRESIDENTIAL IRE.
 SABOTEURS AND NON-CONFORMISTS WERE ALSO TOLD TO STEP
 ASIDE SO AS NOT TO IMPEDE THE REVOLUTION. RATHER OBLIQUELY
 THE PRESIDENT ALSO CRITICIZED THE ZAMBIAN MASSES,
 OBSERVING THAT INSTITUTIONS CREATED TO IMPLEMENT
 THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE PEOPLE, MANY OF WHICH
 ARE NOT PERFORMING SATISFACTORILY, ARE ALREADY IN
 THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE.

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3. COMMENT: THE QUERULOUS, CRITICIAL TONE OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE PARTY'S POLICY ENDORSING BODY SUGGESTS HE IS SERIOUSLY DISPLEASED ACROSS THE BOARD WITH THE PARTY, GOVERNMENT AND ORDINARY CITIZEN RESPONSE TO THE LEADERSHIP'S GOALS FOR THE COUNTRY. THERE MAY BE SEGMENTS OF THE ZAMBIAN SOCIETY WHICH WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE PRESIDENT'S CRITICISM AND

EXHORTATION. HOWEVER, AFTER 12 YEARS OF THIS APPROACH THERE ARE MANY WHO ARE EQUALLY DISSATISFIED WITH THE COUNTRY'S LEADERSHIP--IRATE CONSUMERS CONFRONTED BY SHORTAGES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES, CIVIL SERVANTS HAM-STRUNG BY PARTY INTERFERENCE, PARTY MEMBERS AND LEADERS WHO FEEL THEIR RECOGNITION IS INADEQUATE, THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN OUT WITH THE PARTY, TRIBAL GROUPS WITH REAL OR IMAGINED SLIGHTS AND EARLY ADVOCATES OF ZAMBIAN INDEPENDENCE WHO HAVE BEEN THRUST ASIDE. IN THE PAST KAUNDA HAS USED NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSIONS TO UNVEIL NEW POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. THIS ELEMENT WAS NOTABLY LACKING IN HIS NEGATIVE AND SUPERFICIAL ADDRESS. A NUMBER OF THOSE PRESENT NOTED THIS LACK AND WONDERED ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S ABILITY TO COPE WITH THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS FACING ZAMBIA. PRESENTLY KAUNDA APPEARS NOT TO BE BEING CHALLENGED PERSONALLY, BUT THERE APPEARS LITTLE QUESTION THAT HE AND HIS PARTY HAVE FAILED TO SATISFY AND ENTHUSE SIGNIFICANT SEGMENTS OF THE BODY POLITIC. THIS IS AN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION TO BE IN FOR BOTH HIM AND HIS PARTY AS NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN 1978 DRAW NEARER. LOW

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